Hike in prices of petroleum products

1423. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have hiked the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG recently; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Recent increase in Retail Selling Price at Delhi in Rs./lit/cyl.

Date	MS	HSD	LPG	SKO
16/6/2004	2.00	1.00	Rs.20	NIL
1/8/2004	1.10	1.42	NIL	NIL

Effective 1.8.04, with a view to moderating the impact of increase in international prices on domestic consumer prices of petrol and diesel, a price band mechanism has been put in operation, in terms of which Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) can effect price revisions only within a prescribed price band. If the ban is breached, OMCs have to consult Government.

Completion of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

1424. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of gas pipeline between Iran and India and how much time it would take to complete such a pipeline;

(b) what will be the benefits of constructing such a pipeline to India; and

(c) what are the main hindrances in the way of construction of such a pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The parameters of the Indo-Iran natural gas pipeline project have not been finalized.

(b) India is a gas deficit country. The Islamic Republic of Iran has the second largest gas reserves in the world and is in proximity to the potential Indian market and is likely to be in a position to supply gas to India on competitive terms. This would help in meeting the large and growing demand for gas in India.